

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4 are now present in this application.

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended, and claim 3 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by BUELL, U.S. Patent 4,951,774. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Examiner considers claims 3 and 4 to contain allowable subject matter. Without conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to expedite prosecution of this application, it is noted that the limitations of objected-to but allowable claim 3 have been incorporated into independent claim 1. Accordingly, independent claim 1 and its dependent claims should automatically be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 102(b) rejection are respectfully requested.

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Because the additional prior art cited by the Examiner has been included merely to show the state of the prior art and has not been utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning these documents are considered necessary at this time.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By Joe McKinney Muncy
Joe McKinney Muncy, #32,334

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

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